

10 May 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: New Military Field Courts

1. A new Military Field Court has been organized in Saigon and heard its first cases on 6 May 1968. A memorandum describing the court and its jurisdiction will be disseminated to interested officials.
2. Work is going forward to obtain concrete information, for the various parts of the Republic, as to numbers and types of Civilian Security Suspects, the flow of cases through the military courts and Security Committees, and expected case loads. Based on those findings, we will be in a position to make recommendations as to the organization of additional Military Field Courts. A total of four new courts of this type were authorized in Decree - Law 049/67 of 30 October 1967.
3. Investigation is underway to determine if full use is being made of prosecution for Draft Evasion, Desertion from the Armed Forces, and use of False Identification documents or permits. It is very difficult to get individuals to testify against or otherwise cooperate in the prosecution of important members of the Infrastructure. Proof of the foregoing offenses, however, would seem to be relatively simple.

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Legal Counsel

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